

court's decision to issue a preliminary injunction concerning certain clarithromycin patents. This court also provisionally found that certain claims in a patent for clarithromycin oxime may be invalid.

A new specification has been provided which inserts matter from the certificate of correction directly into the specification, as required by the examiner on page 2 of her Office Action mailed March 31, 2005.

New claims 6 through 19 have been added. These claims depend on claim 1. It is believed that no additional claim fee is required. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 16-0633 for any additional fees, or if the claim fee amount has been erroneously calculated.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following new claims:

6. A process for preparing 6-O-methylerythromycin A comprising:

performing the steps of claim 1; then

eliminating in any desired sequence the R¹, R², and R³ groups;

wherein the R¹ group is eliminated by homogeneous or
heterogeneous hydrogenolysis;

and wherein the R² and R³ groups are eliminated by treatment with
an acid in an alcohol or with tetrabutyl ammonium fluoride;

and then

deoximating with a deoximating agent.

7. The process of claim 6, wherein the elimination of R¹ is performed by
homogeneous hydrogenolysis.

8. The process of claim 6, wherein the elimination of R¹ is performed by heterogeneous hydrogenolysis.

9. The process of claim 6, wherein the elimination of R² and R³ is performed by treatment with acid in an alcohol.

10. The process of claim 6, wherein the elimination of R² and R³ is performed by treatment with tetrabutyl ammonium fluoride.

11. A process for preparing 6-O-methylerythromycin A comprising:
performing the steps of claim 1; then
eliminating in any desired sequence the R¹, R², and R³ groups;
wherein the R¹ group is eliminated by homogeneous or
heterogeneous hydrogenolysis;
and wherein the R² and R³ groups are eliminated by treatment with
an acid in an alcohol or with tetrabutyl ammonium fluoride;
and then
deoximating by using sodium hydrogen sulfite, titanium trichloride-
ammonium acetate, sodium nitrate-hydrochloric acid, or sodium
hydrosulfite.

12. The process of claim 11, wherein the elimination of R¹ is performed by
homogeneous hydrogenolysis.

13. The process of claim 11, wherein the elimination of R¹ is performed by
heterogeneous hydrogenolysis.

14. The process of claim 11, wherein the elimination of R² and R³ is performed
by treatment with acid in an alcohol.